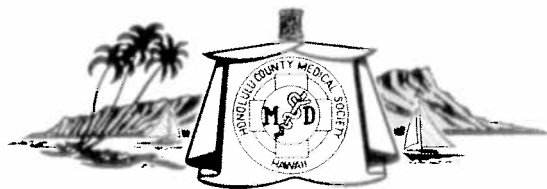




D. SCOTT MCCAFFREY MD
HCMS PRESIDENT



AN EPIC YEAR FOR A GREAT SOCIETY

BY D. SCOTT MCCAFFREY MD, HCMS PRESIDENT

As 2005 comes to a close, I have been asked to summarize the year's accomplishments and efforts at the County level. In many ways HCMS reminds me of "the little engine that could"—aided by a single, extremely dedicated and talented staffer and bolstered by an all volunteer army of selfless professionals with a focused Executive Committee at the helm, we have indeed "chugged up that big hill" in taking on a variety of traditional and not-so-traditional challenges.

Physician Education

Utilizing the deft organizational skills of Executive Director Julie Cooper (formerly d.b.a. as Julie Kinhult), general membership meetings have provided information to young and old physicians alike covering a wide variety of topics from how to start and run a successful solo medical practice to what to do in the event of a bioterrorist attack. These meetings were well attended and produced new members for both HCMS and HMA.

Medical Library Access and Rare Book Collection Preservation

2005 found HCMS challenged by the Queens Healthcare Sys-

tems decision to close the Hawaii Medical Library along with HCMS/HMA member services. To that end we have 1) established new ties and upgraded computer access services with the John A. Burns School of Medicine and 2) received assurances from Queens that the HCMS Rare Medical Books Collection (originally donated by our predecessors) would be maintained and protected until such time as we have a better use or place for it.

Focusing and Improving On 'THE VISION'

The HCMS Long Range Planning Committee, Chaired by Dr. Glen Pang and working in conjunction with HMA, has produced a long range planning document founded upon HCMS bedrock principles designed to keep us on track. It even contains innovative solutions to some of the recurrent problems facing both HCMS and HMA and deserves a good read by all.

Starting 'Em Young

In the wonderful tradition of reaching out to medical students, several events focused on the up and coming physicians of our community. These included both educational "hands-on"

seminars in surgical gowning procedures and, most recently, an after-hours party and game competition at David and Busters. Needless to say a good time was had by all.

Reaching Globally from Our Little Corner of the World

In "Operation Iraqi Colleague" the word went out that physicians and medical students are in dire need of medical textbooks—and membership responded. By deadline last month Julie had collected over thirty boxes of books and reference materials! These are now the process of being moved where they will benefit a part of the world so in need of what our profession does so well.

Adding some Balance and Reason to the Political Equation

One of the most important and long standing programs of HCMS is the "Mini-internship" Program. This year participants included local senators, representatives, media luminaries and business professional and they all came away with the same positive eye-opening experience and greater appreciation for the effort and caring we bring to our work-

place everyday. This program is so important we have expanded it so that doctors and 'interns' schedules can be accommodated more easily opening it to even greater involvement.

Looking to Our Counterparts in the Legal Community for Help in Addressing Our Medical Malpractice Crisis

A few months ago I was approached by The Hawaii Bar Association's President, Richard Turbin who proposed establishing a joint committee of doctors and attorneys to study the malpractice problem. It was reasoned that through group discussion and creative exchange we might create some win-win solutions in this contentious area that would benefit patient, doctor and attorney. I have proposed to the HCMS Executive Committee the following joint statement:

Doctors-Lawyers to form Committee with Goal of Cooperation on Important Social Issues

Richard Turbin, President of the Hawaii State Bar Association and Dr. Scott McCaffrey, President of the Honolulu Medical Society announce the formation of the Committee

on Doctor-Lawyer Cooperation made up of prominent physicians and attorneys with a goal of bettering society through the cooperation and joint problem solving of these two important professional groups. The most important goals will be the following:

1- Reduce the number of medical malpractice law suits through a system of mediation and ho'oponopono (to make right) run by a counseling group of State Bar Association and County Medical Society members.

2- Establish joint professional educational projects such as the "Medical Primer for Lawyers", and also the "Law Primer for Doctors".

3- The Hawaii State Bar Association and the Honolulu County Medical Society will work together this fall to reduce drug use of Hawaii's youth by working together on a middle school targeted "Partnership for Drug Free Children".

Due to the breadth and scope of this project, I have proposed to appoint representatives from both HMA and HCMS to sit on this joint task force.

MAHALO NUI LOA!

None of the above could have been accomplished without the support of our Executive Director, Julie Cooper, or our outstanding Executive Committee comprised of John Rausch, MD, President-elect, Roger Kimura, MD, Secretary, Vince Yamashiroya, MD, Treasurer, and David Young, MD, Treasurer-Elect. These outstanding individuals have been a delight to work with every step of way in my tenure as your President as have so many of you who have given so selflessly of your time and energy.

I look forward to "getting behind" our new leadership, as well as that of HMA, in moving both organizations forward in the honorable endeavors of our profession. Let us always keep our patients' well being and the health of our profession to serve the patient first and foremost in our actions.

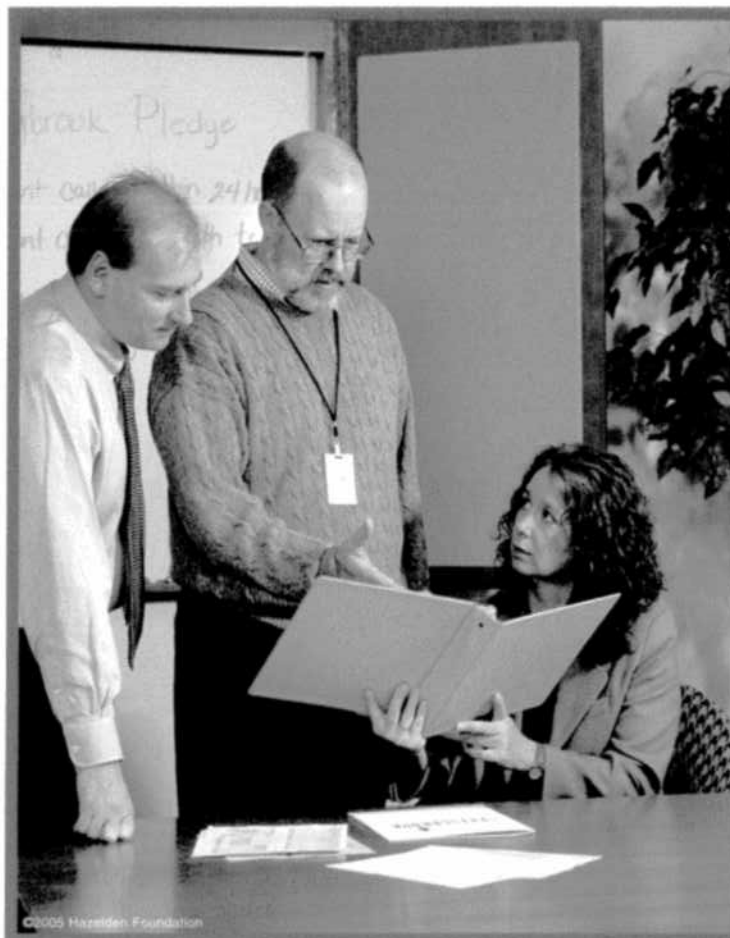
If not us, then who?

If not now, then when?

D. Scott McCaffrey, MD

President

Honolulu County Medical Society



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